

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05
JUSE-00 L-03 DHA-05 /059 W
-----025243 240122Z /64
R 232252Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4999
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2702

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TZ
SUBJ: COMPLAINT BY TANZANIAN MISSION OF POLICE BRUTALITY
AGAINST TANZANIAN MEMBER OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

1. AMBASSADOR SEBASTIAN CHALE (TANZANIA) VISITED USUN
EVENING OF AUGUST 22, 1977 AND HANDED MISSION OFFICER COPY OF
AN OFFICIAL NOTE CONTAINING LETTERS FROM DR. EDMUND K. LEO,
AN TANZANIAN UNITED NATIONS STAFF MEMBER, COMPLAINING OF
POLICE BRUTALITY DURING AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT DR.
LEO'S APARTMENT ON JULY 30, 1977.

2. WE SPOKE THIS MORNING TO INSPECTOR HAROLD HESS, CHIEF,
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT, REGARDING
INCIDENT. INSPECTOR HESS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER
IMMEDIATELY AND INFORM US OF RESULTS OF HIS INVESTIGATION
AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

3. TEXT OF TANZANIAN NOTE AND LETTERS FROM DR. LEO ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: BEGIN TEXTS.

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THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO
THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS THE
HONOUR TO ENCLOSE HERewith SELF-EXPLANATORY COPIES OF CORRES-
PONDENCE ANNEX A AND ANNEX C FROM DR. EDMOND LEO, A TANZANIA
UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL, CONCERNING AN INCIDENT AT HIS RESI-
DENCE ON JULY 29-30, 1977. FURTHER, ANNEX B, WHICH IS ALSO

ENCLOSED HERewith, DEPICTS A VERY SHOCKING AND HORRIBLE STATE OF EVENTS. THE TANZANIA MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN AT THE LACK OF DUE PROCESS AND THE CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR OF THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED AS EVIDENCED IN ANNEX B.

THE TANZANIA MISSION REQUESTS THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AS URGENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

NEW YORK 22 AUGUST 1977

END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT. ANNEX A

DR. EDMUND K. LEO
530 EAST 23 STREET, # 8-B
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010

19 AUGUST 1977
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HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. SALIM A. SALIM
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
201 EAST 42 STREETS, 8TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT ON THE MORNING OF 7/30/1977, THE POLICE CAME TO MY APARTMENT AS A RESULT OF AN INCIDENT THAT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE HAPPENED AT MY APARTMENT 530 EAST 23 STREET, 8-B. SUBSEQUENTLY, I WAS WRONGFULLY ARRESTED, ILLEGALLY DETAINED, HARASSED, ABUSED AND ASSAULTED BY SEVERAL POLICE OFFICERS IN THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL SECURITY OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS. THE POLICE MADE THE ARREST WITHOUT A WARRANT, AND THE ALLEGED COMPLAINT IS CLASSIFIED AS A MISDEMEANOUR, WHICH DID NOT EVEN OCCUR IN THE PRESENCE OF POLICE OFFICERS. REGARDING MY BEING ASSAULTED BY OFFICERS OF THE NEW YORK POLICE, I ATTACH HERewith A STATEMENT BY ONE OF THE SECURITY OFFICERS WHO WITNESSED THE INCIDENT,

WHICH IS SELF EXPLANATORY (ANNEX B).

PLEASE ALSO FIND HERewith THE ATTACHED COPY OF MY LETTER TO POLICE COMMISSIONER MR. MICHAEL J. CODD, DATED 12 AUGUST, 1977, IN WHICH I FILED FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS BEARING SHIELD NUMBERS 31672 AND 31678, WHO, JOINTLY WITH OTHER POLICE OFFICERS UNKNOWN TO ME, ENTERED BY APARTMENT ILLEGALLY, ARRESTED ME WITHOUT CAUSE, HARASSED, ABUSED AND ASSAULTED ME AND DETAINED ME ILLEGALLY. (ANNEX C).

WHEN THE POLICE OFFICERS TOOK ME TO THE POLICE STATION (13TH) THEY CONTINUED TO ASSAULT ME, THREATENED ME WITH A GUN, DENIED ME THE USE OF A TELEPHONE; USED EXCESSIVE FORCE
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AGAINST ME; REFUSED TO INFORM ME OF THE NATURE OF COMPLAINT ALLEGED AGAINST ME, REFUSED TO LET ME READ THE COMPLAINT CHARGE FORMS, WHICH HE FORCED ME TO SIGN AT GUNPOINT.

THE MANNER IN WHICH THE POLICE HANDLED THE MATTER SHOWED COMPLETE LACK OF DUE PROCESS, TANTAMOUNT TO THE POLICE TAKING THE LAW IN THEIR OWN HANDS, AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THIS ASPECT OF THE CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR WHATEVER ACTION YOU MAY DEEM NECESSARY.

YOURS SINCERELY,

DR. EDMUND K. LEO

END TEXT.

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05
JUSE-00 L-03 DHA-05 /059 W
-----025506 240121Z /64

R 232252Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5000
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2702

ANNEX B

STATEMENT OF MR. KENETH JEFFERSON
SECURITY OFFICER, PETER
COOPER VILLAGE

1. THAT ON JULY 29, 1977, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 12 MIDNIGHT AND 1.30 A.M. ON THE MORNING OF JULY 30, 1977, WHILE WORKING AS A SECURITY GUARD AT PETER COOPER VILLAGE SAW EDMUND K. LEO BEING LED FROM HIS APARTMENT BUILDING AT 530 EAST 23 STREET, BY TWO POLICE OFFICERS BEARING SHIELD NUMBERS 31672 AND 31678, AS I WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE ABOVE-SAID BUILDING.

2. THAT DR. EDMUND K. LEO WAS HANDCUFFED, HIS HANDS TIED BEHIND HIS BACK, ACCOMPANIED BY THE TWO POLICE OFFICERS, TWO OF WHOM I RECOGNIZED AS POLICE OFFICERS BEARING SHIELD NUMBER 31672 AND 31678, RESPECTIVELY.

3. THAT AS HE WAS BEING LED INTO THE SQUAD CAR PARKED ON PETER COOPER ROAD IN FRONT OF THE ABOVE-SAID APARTMENT BUILDING, WHILE DR. EDMUND K. LEO WAS HANDCUFFED, TWO OF THE OFFICERS WITH THE SHIELD NUMBERS 31672 AND 31677 WERE CLUBBING HIM IN THE FACE AND STOMACH AND RIBS WITH FISTS AND NIGHT STOCKS, DESPITE PLEAS FROM DR. LEO THAT THEY SHOULD STOP BEATING HIM.
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4. THAT DR. EDMUND K. LEO WAS PUNCHED IN THE FACE AND STOMACH AND RIBS SEVERAL TIMES, AND HE PLEADED WITH THEM NOT TO BEAT HIM. THE POLICE OFFICERS WERE ALSO CURSING HIM.

5. THAT UPON RECOGNIZING ME, DR. EDMUND K. LEO CRIED OUT TO ME FOR HELP WARNING TO TAKE NOTE OF THE BEATINGS AND BECOME A WITNESS AS THE POLICE OFFICERS WERE ABOUT TO KILL HIM. HIS EXACT WORDS WERE "PLEASE HELP, YOU SEE THE POLICE OFFICERS ARE KILLING ME".

6. THEREAFTER, THE POLICE OFFICERS SHOVED HIM INTO THE SQUAD CAR PARKED NEARBY ON PETER COOPER ROAD, AND DROVE AWAY.

7. THAT AT NO TIME DURING THE PERIOD THE POLICE OFFICERS WERE BEATING DR. EDMUND K. LEO AS HE WAS BEING LED INTO THE SQUAD CAR DID DR. LEO MAKE ANY MOVE, OR RESIST, SINCE HE WAS OVERPOWERED

BY THEM, AND HE WAS VIRTUALLY HELPLESS.

SIGNED KENETH JEFFERSON
SECURITY GUARD, PETER COOPER VILLAGE

NEW YORK AUGUST 15, 1977

ANNEX C

DR. EDMUND K. LEO
530 EAST 23 STREET, # 8-B
TELEPHONE: NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010
(212) 228-4581
(RESIDENCE) 12 AUGUST, 1977

MR. MICHAEL J. CODD
POLICE COMMISSIONER
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NEW YORK

DEAR SIR,

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO FILE FORMAL
COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS BEARING SHIELD NUMBERS
31672 AND 31678, JOINTLY WITH OTHER POLICE OFFICERS WHO
MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED, BUT WHOSE IDENTITIES ARE UNKNOWN
TO ME, FOR WRONGFUL ARREST, CRIMINAL ASSAULT, MY ILLEGAL
DETENTION, AND THE ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO MY APARTMENT ON THE
EVENING OF JULY 29, 1977 AND THE MORNING OF JULY 30, 1977,
AT THE ABOVE RESIDENCE.

THE ARREST AT MY RESIDENCE STEMMED FROM AN ALLEGED
MISDEMEANOR WHICH DID NOT EVEN OCCUR IN THE POLICE OFFICERS'
PRESENCE AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE POLICE OFFICERS HANDLED
THE MATTER SHOWED A COMPLETE LACK OF DUE PROCESS.

THE POLICE OFFICERS BEARING SHIELD NUMBERS 31672 AND
31678 ASSAULTED ME SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNES-

SES, THEY PUNCHED ME IN THE FACE WITH FISTS AND WITH A POLICE
BATON JABBED MY RIBS AND STOMACH SEVERAL TIMES, AS I WAS HAND-
CUFFED. THEY ABUSED, HARASSED AND ASSAULTED ME REPEATEDLY, IN
THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL WITNESSES, SOME OF WHOM ARE SECURITY
OFFICERS. AS A RESULT I SUFFERED SOME INJURIES, WHICH REQUIRED
MEDICAL TREATMENT BY A DOCTOR FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

WHILE AT THE POLICE PRECINCT, POLICE OFFICER 31678
CONTINUED TO ASSAULT, HARASS AND ABUSE ME, WHILE THE OTHER
OFFICER 31672 WAS NOT IN THE ROOM. THIS LASTED FOR ALMOST ONE HOUR

AS A TANZANIAN UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL I AM DULY
PROTECTED BY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FROM SUCH BEHAVIOR AND
WOULD, THEREFORE, REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES BE TAKEN
BY YOUR OFFICE AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICERS IN QUESTION.
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YOURS SINCERELY,
DR. EDMUND K. LEO

C.C. HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. SALIM A. SALIM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

UNQUOTE

4. FYI. EARLIER INCIDENT OCCURRED ON MARCH 2, 1977.
AT THAT TIME, DR. EDMUND LEO FILED A CIVILIAN COMPLAINT
AGAINST FOUR POLICE OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH AN
ALTERCATION WHICH OCCURRED IN HIS APARTMENT. WE DO NOT
YET KNOW WHETHER THE ADJUDICATION OF THIS COMPLAINT HAS
BEEN COMPLETED BY THE CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD.

LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Subject: COMPLAINT BY TANZANIAN MISSION OF POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST TANZANIAN MEMBER OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT
TAGS: PFOR, PORS, SHUM, TZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b7b8de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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